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CHAMBER
OF
COMMERCE
OF
PARIS



1915

STATEMENT
REGARDING THE
FUNCTIONS
OF THE
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
OF PARIS






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THE Chamber of Commerce of Paris was founded in 1803. Its sphere of activity is limited to the Department of the Seine, comprising 215,692 registered merchants and manufacturers. Not taking into account certain special rates, these concerns pay yearly taxes of over \$ 8,000,000, or about two-fifths of the total amount spent by licensed business houses in France for engaging in commerce and industry.

By reason of the importance of the commercial interests in the region over which its authority extends, and because most of the large industries have their headquarters in the capital, the Chamber of Commerce of Paris has always prided itself on taking a keen interest in questions which affect the development of French commerce and industry both at home and abroad.

In order to do its work thoroughly and effectively, the Chamber is divided into several committees, which in turn are arranged in two principal groups.



The “Committees of Investigation”, forming one group, aid the Chamber in carrying out its mission as a consulting body. Their duties are to formulate those views, on all questions affecting commerce and industry, to which the Chamber feels it ought to give public expression, either on its own initiative or at the request of the various public authorities. There are five committees in this group, as follows :

Customs, Economic Questions, and Municipal Entry Duties.

Ways and Means of Communication and Transportation.

Commercial and Industrial Legislation.

Exports.

Commercial Education.

Each of these Committees examines the questions within its sphere and prepares reports which are then discussed by the Chamber at its general meetings.

These reports and discussions are recorded in a large octavo volume, which is published each year with the title, “Report of the Activities of the Chamber of Commerce”, and in a “Weekly Bulletin”, which gives an account of the general meetings,



and which also contains a large amount of diversified commercial information.

The “Administrative Committees”, forming the other group, are connected with the various Departments which the Chamber has created, and which it administers in the interest of the commerce and industry of its district. These committees bear the name of the departments with which they are affiliated. In each of them a functionary supervises the daily work and carries out the decisions of the committee, which publishes in the annual “Report” an account of its labors.

The Secretarial Department is under the immediate control of the officers of the Chamber.

Below is given a list of the members of the Chamber, arranged according to the various committees to which they belong.



Officers and Committees

OFFICERS OF THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

M. DAVID-MENNET, O. ✱, *President.*

Messrs. REGNAULT-DESROZIERES, O. ✱, ET LEMOINE, O. ✱,

Vice-Presidents.

Messrs. GATECLOUT, O. ✱, ET PINGAULT, ✱,

Secretaries.

M. DE RIBES-CHRISTOFLE, O. ✱, *Treasurer.*

COMMITTEES OF INVESTIGATION

Customs, Economic Questions, Municipal Entry Duties. — M. CAPET, President. — M. PUTOIS, Vice-President. — M. PROUST, Secretary. — Members : Messrs. Darras, Donckèle, Fauconnier, Fermé, Gateclout, Girardin, Legouëz, Pascalis, Pingault, Henri Poullain, Regnault-Desrozières, de Ribes-Christofle, Sauvage, Seurin, Vinay.

Ways and Means of Communication and Transportation. — M. JOUANNY, President. — M. DUPONT, Vice-President. — M. FONTAINE, Secretary. — Members : Messrs. Alasseur, Coignet, Dépinois, Gateclout, Legouëz, Lemoine, Niclausse, Pingault, Henri Poullain, Proust, Rachet, Regnault-Desrozières, de Ribes-Christofle, Roger, Seurin.

Commercial and Industrial Legislation. — M. DUPONT, President. — M. ROUX, Vice-President. — M. MATIGNON, Secretary. — Members : Messrs. Alasseur, Aucoc, Coignet, Crinon, Gateclout, Godet, Henry, Jouanny, Legouëz, Max Leclerc, Pascalis, Pingault, Roger, Soleau.

Exports. — M. FAUCONNIER, President. — M. SOLEAU, Vice-President. — M. DARRAS, Secretary. — Members : Messrs. Aucoc, Crinon, Dépinoix, Donckèle, Fermé, Fontaine, Godet, Henry, Niclausse, Perdoux, Putois, Rachet, Roux, Vinay.

Commercial Education. — THE PRESIDENT of the Chamber, President. — ONE OF THE SECRETARIES of the Chamber's staff, Secretary. — Members : The Presidents and Vice-Presidents of Committees 9, 10, 11, and 12, and the delegates of these Committees : Messrs. Matignon, Henry, Seurin, Vinay, Capet, Fauconnier, Pingault, de Ribes-Christoffe.

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEES

The Commercial Exchange. — M. SAUVAGE, President. — M. SEURIN, Vice-President. — Members : Messrs. Capet, Dupont, Fontaine, Gateclout, Proust, Regnault-Desroziers, Vinay.

Silk and Wool Testing Department. — M. GODET, President. — M. PUTOIS, Vice-President. — Members : Messrs. Crinon, Darras, Donckèle, Max Leclerc.

Warehouses. — M. NICLAUSSE, President. — M. MATIGNON, Vice-President. — Members : Messrs. Dépinoix, Fauconnier, Fermé, Legouëz, Lemoine, Pascalis, Pingault, Henri Poullain, de Ribes-Christoffe, Roger, Vinay.

Paris School of Commerce (Right Bank). — M. ROUX, President. — M. CRINON, Vice-President. — Members : Messrs. Fermé, Gateclout, Girardin, Henry, Matignon, Henri Poullain, Proust.

Paris School of Commerce (Left Bank). — M. PUTOIS, President. — M. SAUVAGE, Vice-President. — Members : Messrs. Dupont, Fontaine, Godet, Rachet, Seurin, Vinay.

High School of Applied Commerce and Industry. — M. DONCKÈLE, President. — M. DÉPINOIX, Vice-President. — Members : Messrs. Capet, Darras, Fauconnier, Lemoine, Niclausse, Roger, Soleau.

School of Higher Commercial Education. — M. PASCALIS, President. — M. JOUANNY, Vice-President. — Members : Messrs. Alasseur, Aucoc, Coignet, Legouëz, Max Leclerc, Pingault, Regnault-Desroziers, de Ribes-Christoffe.

Library. — M. DARRAS, President. — M. HENRY, Vice-President. — Members : Messrs. Jouanny, Max Leclerc, Henri Poullain, Soleau.



Inspection of Buildings. — M. ALASSEUR, President. — M. COIGNET, Vice-President. — Members : Messrs. Legouëz, Lemoine, Matignon, Niclausse, de Ribes-Christoffe, Roger, Roux.

Section for Testing Fire-Arms. — M. AUCOC, President. — M. JOUANNY, Vice-President. — Members : Messrs. Fontaine, Henry, Niclausse, Rachet, Sauvage.

The Trans-Shipping Port at Ivry. — M. ROGER, President. — M. DUPONT, Vice-President. — Members : Messrs. Alasseur, Coignet, Legouëz, Lemoine, Proust, Rachet, Regnault-Desrozières, de Ribes-Christoffe, Seurin, Vinay.

Publication of the Bulletin of the Chamber. — One of the Secretaries of the Chamber's staff and Messrs. Crinon, Godet, Henry, Max Leclerc, members.

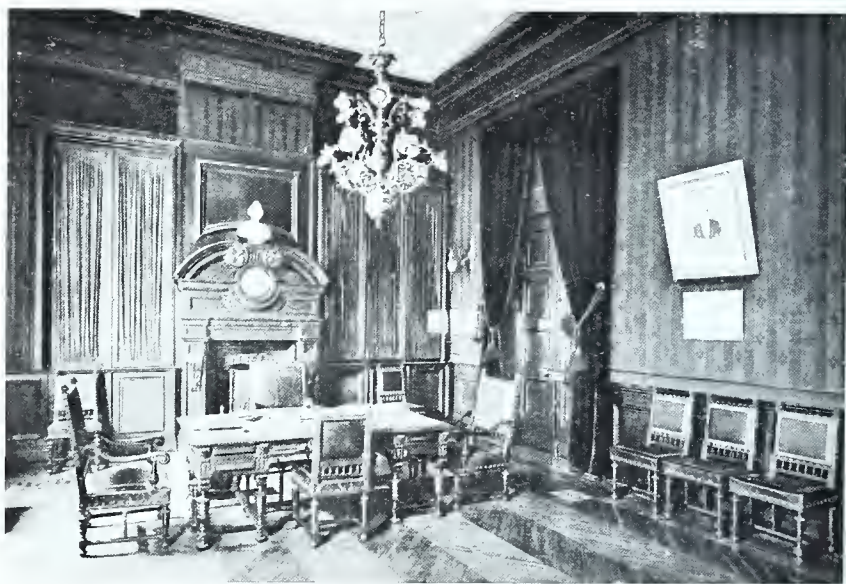




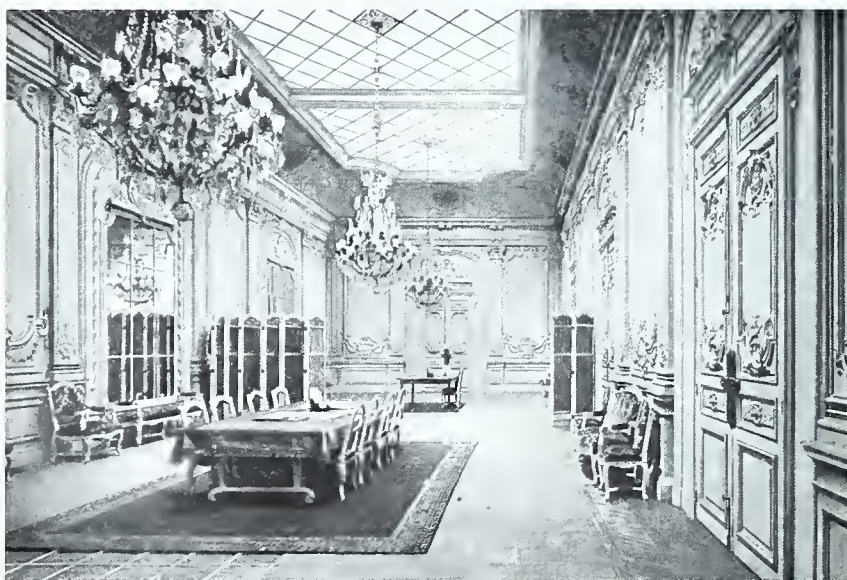
Paris Commercial Exchange.



Interior, Paris Commercial Exchange.



The President's Office.



Public Reception Hall.

Governmental Committees to which Members of the Chamber belong

MEMBERS of the Chamber of Commerce of Paris serve on all the important committees connected with the Government, and make their influence felt in industrial and commercial matters.

Various decrees and laws empower the President, or a delegation of members, to serve on the following governmental committees :

Ministry of Commerce	13 committees
Administration of Post and Telegraph.. . . .	2 committees
Ministry of Public Works	8 committees
Administration of the Merchant Marine	1 committee
Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare	6 committees
Ministry for the Colonies	5 committees
Ministry of Finance	5 committees
Ministry of War	3 committees
Ministry of Public Instruction and Fine Arts	3 committees
Ministry of Agriculture	1 committee
Ministry of the Interior	1 committee
Prefecture of the Seine	8 committees
Prefecture of Police	4 committees

It should also be said that members of the Chamber act either as Presidents or Members of 75 special committees, subject to a call from the Ministry of War or from the Military Government of Paris, who pass upon military supplies ; also on investigating committees of the Ministry of Public Works ; and on committees dealing with railroads and trolley lines in Paris and vicinity.

Secretarial Department

2, Place de la Bourse

THE Secretarial Department of the Chamber of Commerce is entrusted with the care of the Chamber's library; attends to all the correspondence; arranges and calls all meetings of Officers, Committees, and members; has charge of the reporting and printing of the minutes, and of all the Chamber's documents, especially the "Weekly Bulletin" and the "Annual Report".


This department has charge of all branches of accounting, and prepares the statements and budgets to be submitted to the officers of the Chamber.

It furnishes merchants with certificates of origin and declarations of value, and furnishes credentials for French commercial travellers going abroad.

This department also answers the numerous inquiries received at the Chamber from French or foreign business men, in regard to customs, transportation, and commercial or industrial legislation, and supplies lists of mercantile and manufacturing concerns to those who seek to extend their business relations, etc.

The Library

For many years the Chamber has put its commercial library at the disposal of the public, and has established a permanent and rapid service for the consultation of books.



Although almost wholly destroyed by fire in 1899, the library was restored, and now possesses about 20,000 titles, composed of more than 50,000 volumes or pamphlets. More than 600 reviews, bulletins, or periodicals are received, among them many bulletins from French and foreign Chambers of Commerce.

The Reading Room is open from nine until half-past five. Persons may be admitted on presentation of a card which is delivered upon a written request to the Secretary.

The Chamber has introduced many improvements into this branch of its work, and last year completed the publication of a classified catalogue which is very useful to those consulting the library.



School of Higher Commercial Education

FOUNDED IN 1881

ENDORSED BY THE GOVERNMENT (Decree of July 22, 1890)

108, Boulevard Malesherbes

THIS school provides advanced commercial instruction for young men who have finished their courses in Academies, Colleges, and Commercial Schools. It aims to give them the technical equipment necessary to attain as quickly as possible the management of large affairs, and to fill the most important positions in mercantile, manufacturing, and banking circles.

Since its foundation, this school has always maintained its character as a place for superior commercial instruction, not only in the class of pupils which it attracts, but in the excellence of its instructors and the high standard of its courses. The esteem with which the public looks upon the diploma of the school, is the best proof of the value of its instruction. All pupils must pass an entrance examination, and the instruction which is given them, in order to be pursued to advantage, requires a mature mind and well-grounded preparation.

The course of study lasts two years. The second year, pupils may make a choice from the following groups :

Commerce and Industry. — Commerce and Banking.
Commerce and the Colonies. — The Consular Service.

French and foreign pupils who have obtained 65 % of the maximum total of marks possible during their school course receive a diploma from the Minister of Commerce and Industry.

A certificate is given to those who do not receive a diploma, in case they have at least 55 % of the maximum total of marks.

The school receives day pupils, as well as day boarders and full resident pupils.

Candidates who are preparing for the diplomatic or consular service, may take, after the two years' course of study, a special course which prepares directly for the competitive examinations given by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. This course may also be followed by candidates who have not taken the normal course of the school, but who have diplomas which admit them to the examinations given by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; they may also be followed by pupils who have received the school's diploma, and who wish to enlarge their acquirements by an extra year of special study. In the competitive examinations given by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, pupils taking this course have obtained brilliant results, not only as regards the large number of successful candidates, but the exceptional merit they have displayed.

In addition to pupils who are admitted after an examination, French or foreign pupils may follow the courses, and receive certificates to that effect.

The present enrollment is 319 pupils.

The Alumni Association, endorsed by the Government, takes an active interest in finding positions for graduates.

High School of Applied Commerce and Industry

FOUNDED IN 1820. — ENDORSED BY THE GOVERNMENT
(Decree of July 22, 1890)

79, Avenue de la République

THIS is the oldest school of its kind in France. It was founded in 1820 by a club of financiers, economists and merchants; was taken over and re-organized in 1869 by the Chamber of Commerce of Paris, and in 1898 was transferred from the Rue Amelot to the Avenue de la République, in quarters specially prepared for its use.

Through aid received from the Government and from the city of Paris, the Chamber of Commerce was able, in 1905, to make many further improvements. Because of its superior equipment and its approved methods of instruction, it has become the most highly perfected type of a great modern commercial institution.

It is the aim of the school to equip young men to fill the higher offices, either as chief clerks or managers, in the general field of commerce, as well as in export trade, banking, manufacturing, the Civil Service, and colonial positions.

Its claim to originality lies in the fact that it

combines two types of commercial instruction, — the ordinary type and the advanced type.

For this purpose, the instruction is divided into two grades :

The first grade consists of three years of practical commercial study for youths from 12 to 17, who wish to go into business at an early age.

The second grade consists of two years of advanced study, for young men from 16 to 20 years of age, not only those who have already had considerable instruction, but also those who have received at the school the instruction given in the first grade.

Candidates are admitted to the work of the second grade without examination if they have a diploma from a school of secondary instruction, or a certificate of advanced elementary study, or a certificate of practical commercial study, or a certificate of commercial studies of the first group from commercial high schools, or have passed the third year of the school, or have the diploma of the commercial schools of the Chamber of Commerce of Paris. Candidates not having any of the foregoing diplomas must pass an examination.

After the examinations of the third year of the first grade are completed, pupils are given :

(1) A certificate of secondary commercial studies, signed by the President of the Chamber of Commerce, for pupils who have obtained an average mark of twelve during their school course.

(2) A certificate of secondary commercial studies, signed by the Director of the school, for pupils who have obtained an average mark of ten.

French and foreign pupils of the second grade who have obtained 65 % of the maximum total of marks



possible during the school course, receive a diploma from the Minister of Commerce.

A certificate is given to those, not having obtained a diploma, who have at least 55 % of the maximum total.

A colonial section, with lectures and special courses, was opened in 1913 for second-year pupils of the advanced grade who are preparing for colonial careers.

The school receives day pupils, as well as day boarders and full resident pupils, for the whole year in the first grade, and until November 1st in the advanced grade.

In addition to pupils admitted by certificate, or after examination, the school permits French and foreign pupils to follow the courses, and gives them certificates to that effect.

There are now more than 550 pupils at the school.

The Alumni Association aids in finding positions for graduates.





New Building of the Chamber of Deputies



Bourse de Commerce of Paris.

Paris School of Commerce

(Right Bank of the Seine)

FOUNDED IN 1863

39, Avenue Trudaine

Paris School of Commerce

(Left Bank of the Seine)

FOUNDED IN 1908

Rue Armand-Moisant (22, Boulevard de Vaugirard)



IT is the object of these two schools to give a special commercial training necessary for young men desiring an adequate preparation for the various commercial, banking, and administrative careers.

Pupils are admitted from the ages of 9 to 12 to the Preparatory Courses, and from 12 to 17 to the Normal Courses.

These schools admit only day pupils, but scholars may either bring their own lunch, or arrange to take lunch at the school.

The Normal Courses require four years.

The Preparatory Courses, which include three divisions, receive children who are too young, or who have too little preparation, to follow the Normal Courses to advantage.

In order to make these schools accessible to a large number, the fee for instruction is very small, and many free scholarships are given by the Ministry of Commerce, the General Council of the Seine, the City of Paris, the Chamber of Commerce, the railroad companies, the banking institutions, and by societies and private persons.

The present enrollment of the Paris School of Commerce (Right Bank) is 820 pupils.

The Paris School of Commerce (Left Bank), which began in 1908 with 114 pupils, now has 344.

The teaching force is divided into special instructors and general instructors. In addition to the courses which they themselves give, the general instructors pay close attention to the class-room work of the pupils and exercise a moral control and permanent discipline over them. It is a kind of "tutorial system applied to instruction on a large scale".

After an examination at the completion of the courses, the Chamber of Commerce gives diplomas and certificates, and awards prizes to the best pupils of all classes.

Pupils very readily find situations in general business houses and in banking, commission, manufacturing, and insurance concerns.

The Alumni Association, founded in 1868, is chiefly concerned with obtaining positions for graduates.



Evening Commercial Courses

QUITE independently of its Normal or Preparatory Courses, the Chamber of Commerce provides free commercial courses for adults of both sexes and for young women. The courses are given in the evening at the School of Commerce, 39, Avenue Trudaine, and at the High School of Applied Commerce and Industry, 79 *bis*, Avenue de la République.

The courses for male adults include a study of the French, English, German and Spanish languages, accounting, commercial law, arithmetic, drawing, and stenography.

During the school year 1912-1913, the courses at the Avenue Trudaine school were followed by 732 pupils, and at the High School of Applied Commerce by 464.

The courses for women and girls include accounting, English, handwriting, factory systems, shorthand and typewriting.

A certificate of study is given at the end of the third year.

For the year 1912-1913, 212 persons were enrolled for the courses given at the Avenue de la République, and 188 women and girls at the Avenue Trudaine.

The Commercial Exchange

42, Rue du Louvre

THE present Commercial Exchange, built on the site of the old Wheat Market, was opened on September 24th, 1899. It is the official headquarters for dealings in wheat and other grains, oil, flour, sugar, and alcohol. It is likewise the meeting place for important bodies of merchants, agriculturists, and the heads of industries connected with agriculture, such as manufacturers of farm machinery and distilling apparatus, dealers in coal, and fertilizers; insurance agents; dealers in horses and other live stock, etc.

The Exchange is housed in a large public hall, where merchants may rent offices.

Here are installed the offices occupied by the Association of Licensed Brokers of the Tribunal of Commerce of the Seine; the Merchant's Association; the various associations for dealing in spirits, wheat, barley, oats, refined flours, oil, sugar, etc.

The Chamber of Commerce of Paris administers and supervises the Commercial Exchange, arranging the hours for opening and closing, and providing heat, light, and maintenance.

The licensed brokers meet every day at the Exchange, in order to follow the market quotations indicated by the Chamber of Commerce.

Department of Silk and Wool Testing

LABORATORY FOR TESTING AND ANALYZING TEXTILE MATERIALS AND PAPER

(Bourse de Commerce, 42, Rue du Louvre)

THIS establishment was founded in 1855, with the object of determining the degree of moisture in textile materials through the drying of samples in hot-rooms.

The following operations are connected with this department :

Testing and numbering of threads ; ungumming of silks and degreasing of wools ; dynamometric tests of threads and fabrics ; twisting of threads ; inquiry into the nature of materials of which fabrics and threads are composed ; qualitative and quantitative analysis of mixed threads and fabrics ; determination of the thickness and weight of paper ; resistance tests, and qualitative determination of fibres composing the pulp ; tests of free chloric acids, composition of sizing, and proportion of ash ; and the absorbent power of blotting papers.

Various branches of the Government frequently employ the aid of this Department.

Management of the Paris Custom House

THIS service, which operates at the central Customs Office, 11, Rue de la Douane, is entrusted to agents of the Chamber duly accredited to the Government.

It is the aim of the Chamber of Commerce to put an experienced force at the disposal of merchants, in order to facilitate their relations with the customs, and to give the necessary attention to merchandise, especially at the time of verification and sealing.

The activities of this branch are chiefly called upon in the following cases :

To receive goods of French manufacture when returned from abroad.

To receive foreign merchandise intended for re-export, or in transit, or for domestic consumption.

The Chamber of Commerce also rents to merchants, warehouse rooms which are under the control of the customs, and where merchandise may be received free of duty until it is re-shipped. It should be said that the Government places a limit upon goods which can take advantage of this provision.

The work of this branch is divided into four sections : exports, re-exports, imports, and returned goods. During the year 1913, the service included an examination of 163,032 packages, representing a weight of

4,780,000 pounds, and a value of over \$ 28,000,000.

The necessity of enlarging the Central Customs having long been keenly felt, the Chamber recently acquired an adjacent building which it has remodelled with a view to satisfying the requirements of the public and the Government.



Public Customs Warehouse

THE Chamber of Commerce of Paris has charge of the administration of the Public Customs Warehouse of the City of Paris.

This Public Customs Warehouse is located on the Seine, at the depot of the Port d'Austerlitz. Its organization and modern equipment permit the work to be done rapidly and under the most favorable conditions.

The Chamber contemplates the construction of another warehouse, which will supplement the one now in existence, thus supplying those needs for which the Austerlitz establishment is insufficient.

By constantly keeping in touch with Paris merchants, the Chamber is endeavoring to furnish them most ample facilities in their relations with the customs, and to satisfy the legitimate interests of commerce and industry to the greatest possible extent.

The important role played by this Department is evident when it is recalled that a larger maritime tonnage is handled at Paris than at Marseilles, in 1913 reaching the figure of 14,447,108 tons. To this should be added the no less extensive shipments which arrive by rail, Paris being the centre of all the great railway lines.



Assembly-Room.



One of the Rooms of the Library.



High School of Applied Commerce and Industry.



Auditorium, School of Higher Commercial Instruction.

Section for Testing Fire-Arms

THE Chamber was authorized, by a special decree, to establish a public test for fire-arms. This was installed, with the aid of the Association of manufacturers and dealers in fire-arms and ammunition, and was opened to the public on July 1st, 1899.

The care with which the trials have been made, in accordance with the most approved scientific methods, gives the Paris mark on fire-arms an especially high value.

This institution was originally located on the road to Versailles. It has just been enlarged and transferred to new quarters, which occupy part of the military grounds of the island of Billancourt, and which the Ministry of War has turned over to the Chamber. The new building, completed through the aid of the Arms Manufacturers of Paris, consists of two stands, one of them arranged for group tests for which special certificates are furnished, and the other is provided with the best kind of apparatus for determining the speed obtainable, and the amount of pressure developed by the different kinds of powder.

The Trans-Shipping Port at Ivry

THE Trans-Shipping Port at Ivry is the first port established in Paris for the purpose of permitting direct connection between railroads and navigation lines, thus promoting the development of combined transportation. This port connects the Seine with the Orleans Railway System.

This was arranged in 1899, with the aid of the Chamber, which was authorized to establish the necessary means for trans-shipping goods and for furnishing sheds. The Chamber provides the staff required for this work.

The exchange of traffic between the navigation lines and the railroads consists principally of grain, coal, and building materials.

The tonnage handled at this port has grown rapidly.

In view of this large increase, the Chamber is considering means to prevent the accumulation of merchandise from becoming too great a hindrance to traffic at this point. The Chamber has asked for an enlargement of the port, and in order to bring this about as quickly as possible, has agreed to assume a part of the necessary expenses. The Government is contemplating an extension of the port to the Pont de Conflans by building a quay which will lengthen the present one. A depth along this quay of over 13 feet



will thus be assured. In order to prepare for the execution of this project in the near future, the Chamber has asked that its present concession be extended to the new section of the port.



Miscellaneous Services

SUPPORTED WHOLLY OR IN PART BY THE CHAMBER

THE Chamber of Commerce of Paris gives financial aid to a large number of activities of general interest, especially to the many schools and courses of study, within its field of action, which give commercial or professional instruction.

In order to lessen the difficulties arising from the apprenticeship system, the Chamber began a comprehensive inquiry, which its members pursued principally in Germany, Belgium, Switzerland, Austria, and Hungary. The results are given in a report by M. de Ribes-Christofle, Treasurer of the Chamber.

In carrying out its researches on this subject, the Chamber recently instituted, along with the principal organizations which give professional courses, a number of meetings at which the progress made was set forth, and the methods and measures which should be adopted in order to ensure the development of technical education were considered.

The Chamber of Commerce contributed to the foundation of the *National Bureau for Export Commerce*, giving it the free use of a specially constructed building adjoining its own headquarters. The Chamber votes an annual subsidy to this work, in 1913 giving it more than \$ 20,000.

With the financial aid of the Chamber, the *National*



Bureau of Industrial Property has been reorganized and transferred to the Conservatory of Arts and Crafts.

In 1902 the Chamber spent \$ 50,000 in improving the test laboratory, and each year it gives \$ 11,000 to guarantee the loan made to the Conservatory for these changes.

Mention should also be made of the *Association for Encouraging French Export Trade*, and the *Commercial Association for the Study of Foreign Languages*, established under the Chamber's patronage and housed in its building.

Since 1890 the Chamber has advanced considerable sums of money, without interest, to the State, for the construction of interurban and international telephone lines.



Chamber of Commerce Building

2, Place de la Bourse

AFTER having shared with the Tribunal of Commerce a part of its headquarters at the Bourse, the Chamber is now located in a home, situated in the Place de la Bourse, which is to be forever at its disposal. Although this building occupies more than 10,000 square feet of land, and has been several times remodelled and transformed, it is to-day manifestly inadequate.

On the ground floor are installed the Secretarial Department, with correspondence, accounting, shorthand, typewriting, archives, and the overflow of the library, the latter being arranged according to the plans used by the National Library for reserve books.

On the second floor are found the general meeting room, the public reception hall, the private offices of the President, the Vice-Presidents, and the Secretaries, and the committee rooms.

On this same floor is the library reading room.

Through the library, the Chamber communicates directly with the National Bureau of Foreign Commerce, whose regular entrance is on the Rue Feydeau.

The increase in the number of the Chamber's members, the creation of the assembly of Presidents of Chambers of Commerce, whose meetings are becoming more frequent and are requiring special



organization and services, the constant extension of special features of the Chamber's work, particularly in connection with the Secretarial Department, have rendered the office space and the meeting rooms insufficient for the Chamber's needs.

Furthermore, the rapid increase of library acquisitions and the steadily growing number of readers, make a considerable enlargement and a better installation imperative, in order that the service which they render shall not be crippled.

The Chamber was authorized, by a law dated August 8th, 1913, and by several decrees, to reconstruct its headquarters and to acquire several adjoining buildings, covering an area of more than 25,000 square feet. These additions to the present property will permit the construction of an edifice sufficient for all its needs, and worthy of the commerce and industry of the capital.

A competition, which was opened for all French architects, closed on the 7th of July. Work on the new building will be begun in the near future.



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